

VZCZCXRO5202
OO RUEHCHI RUEHDT RUEHHM
DE RUEHJA #2799/01 2760935
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 030935Z OCT 07
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6562
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS IMMEDIATE
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 4381
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 1315
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1374
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 0912
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY 1846
RHHJJPI/USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 7649
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0698
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 JAKARTA 002799

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP, EAP/MTS, EAP/MLS (COPE), EAP/RSP, DRL,
IO
NSC FOR EPHU

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/03/2017

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PINS](#) [PHUM](#) [ID](#) [BM](#)

SUBJECT: INDONESIA AND BURMA: PRESSING THE CASE AGAINST
THE REGIME

REF: A. JAKARTA 2784 AND PREVIOUS

[1](#)B. RANGOON 954 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: Pol/C Joseph Legend Novak, reasons 1.4 (b,d).

[1](#)1. (U) This message was coordinated with Consulate Surabaya.

[1](#)2. (C) SUMMARY: Charge took our views on Burma directly to the Indonesian public in a television interview. Indonesian legislators, media and civil society continue to focus on Burma and to press the GOI for action. END SUMMARY

[1](#)3. (SBU) CHARGE INTERVIEW: In an October 3 interview on Jakarta's Metro TV, the Charge stressed that the international community must keep up the pressure for a genuine transition to democracy in Burma. Although the violence has subsided, Burma's underlying problems remain acute. The Charge explained that the United States was working with a broad range of partners around the world, including Indonesia, to help the Burmese people in their struggle for democracy.

[1](#)4. (SBU) MEDIA/CIVIL SOCIETY: In the meantime, Indonesian media and civil society continued to excoriate the regime and to call for ASEAN action. In a front-page October 3 editorial, the independent daily Media Indonesia demanded stronger ASEAN action, saying that the regional organization had a responsibility to force change without bloodshed in Burma.

[1](#)5. (SBU) The October 3 edition of the leading Surabaya daily Jawa Pos carried a commentary by Rev. Andika Hadinata calling for Indonesian religious leaders of all faiths to stand with the courageous monks of Burma. Religious leaders, he argued, were a "moral force" who could not be silent in the face of government repression.

[1](#)6. (SBU) Student activists and religious groups in Surabaya formed a new coalition called Surabaya People Solidarity for Burma. Approximately 200 members of the coalition demonstrated in front of the East Java governor's office calling for stronger ASEAN action on October 2.

[1](#)7. (C) LEGISLATORS ENGAGED: As part of Mission's regular dialogue with the Indonesian Legislature (DPR), Pol/C

reviewed the Burma situation with DPR Myanmar Caucus Chair Joko Susilo in an October 3 meeting. Susilo agreed with Pol/C that Burma is a threat to regional peace and security and that the issue belongs in the UNSC, as well as other fora. Susilo said he continued to press this position on the Presidential Palace and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DEPLU). Susilo has also attempted to build Indonesian opposition to the regime by stressing its oppression of Muslim minorities.

18. (C) Pol/C also discussed Burma with Arif Budiman, a key staffer to DPR Speaker Agung Laksono, on October 3. Budiman responded that Speaker Laksono, who was currently in Geneva for a meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), remained focused on Burma. The Speaker planned to discuss the possibility of the IPU issuing a statement of support for the democratic opposition in Burma.

19. (C) DIP UPDATE: Pol/C discussed Burma with UK Pol/C Piers Cazalet, providing an overview of USG efforts to engage the GOI, the DPR and Indonesian media and civil society. Cazalet responded that the UK government was working with many of the same contacts to urge Indonesia to take a stronger stand. The EU Troika will meet DEPLU officials on October 4 to press Indonesia for strong ASEAN action.

10. (C) In an October 3 discussion with Pol/C, Chinese Pol/C Gong Xun repeated Beijing's well-known position on the issue. China regarded the situation in Burma as a purely internal matter and did not regard the issue as falling within the mandate of the UNSC. He noted, however, that the Chinese government had repeatedly urged the regime in Burma to show restraint.

JAKARTA 00002799 002 OF 002

HEFFERN